

Message Text

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ACTION EURE-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0858

EO 12065: XDS-4 JUN 6, 1999 (THOMAS W. FINA)
TAGS: PINT IT
SUBJECT: MONTANELLI ANALYZES JUNE 3 ELECTION

1. ALL CONFIDENTIAL

2. BEGIN SUMMARY: CONSERVATIVE, ANTI CLERICAL EDITOR
MONTANELLI ELATED AT DOUBLE SETBACK TO COMMUNISTS AND
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. THIS AND MINOR LAY PARTY GAINS
HE SEES AS DUE IN LARGE PART TO HIS EDITORIAL POSITION.
FAVORS DC GOVERNMENT WITH PSI ABSTENTION AND CHANGE OF
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION TO FORCE MERGER OF MINOR
PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

3. INDO MONTANELLI, ITALY'S MOST EMINENT JOURNALIST,
ASCERBIC, OUTSPOKEN, ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-CLERICAL CONSER-
VATIVE EDITOR OF IL GIORNALE IS EXULTANT. JUNE 3/4 RESULTS
WERE EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD CALLED FOR, HE SAID. A SHARP SET BACK
TO COMMUNISTS, A LESSER SET BACK TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND ELEC-
TION OF CANDIDATES BACKED BY GIORNALE ESPECIALLY IN LIBERAL
PARTY. COMPROMESSO STORICO IS DEAD, FINISHED, FOREVER, HE REJOI-
CED. PUBLIC HAS PUNISHED BOTH PARTIES FAVORABLE TO IT. AND IT
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CAN'T BE REVIVED.

4. NOA DC WILL FORM MINORITY GOVERNMENT LED BY SOMEONE OTHER
THAN ANDREOTTI WHICH CRAXI HAS ALREADY PROMISED MONTANELLI
THAT HE WILL SUPPORT BY ABSTENTION. THIS WILL ALLOW GOVERNMENT
UNTIL DC CAN HOLD CONGRESS TO FIGHT OUT ISSUE OF ALLIANCE WITH
COMMUNISTS OR SOCIALISTS. IN THIS, MONTANELLI EXCLAIMED,

PRO-SOCIALIST FACTION WILL PREVAIL. MOREOVER, CRAXI HAS ASKED MONTANELLI IF HE WILL BACK PSI IN SPRING 1980 REGIONAL ELECTIONS WHICH MONTANELLI PROMISED TO DO. IT WAS ESSENTIAL, HE EXPLAINED, TO GET SOCIALISTS INTO GOVERNMENT AND TO HAVE STRONG SOCIALIST PARTY.

5. DURING OUR TALKS DC REFORMIST DEPUTY MARIO SEGNI CALLED TO CONGRATULATE MONTANELLI ON HIS SUCCESS AND THEY TALKED INTENSELY ABOUT NEXT STEPS AND NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION.

6. BUT COULD SOCIALISTS ALLY WITH DC EVEN IF CRAXI WANTED TO DO SO? MONTANELLI INSISTED THAT DC HAD TO CHOOSE SOCIALISTS SINCE ALTERNATIVE WAS DEAL WITH COMMUNISTS WHICH WAS ANATHEMA TO REST OF ITALY.

7. WHAT ABOUT MARCO IANNELLA'S RADICALS WHO SEEMED TO BE ONLY REAL WINNERS? MONTANELLI, BEAMED WITH SATISFACTION. PANNELLA WAS HIS MAN. HE WAS A LIBERTARIAN AND A TROUBLE MAKER. BUT HE TOOK VOTES FROM THE COMMUNISTS, HE WAS COURAGEOUS AND HONEST. AND HE KNEW ON WHICH SIDE HIS BREAD WAS BUTTERED. TRUE, HIS 18 DEPUTIES COULD BE A DISRUPTIVE FORCE. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD MAKE LIFE FOR THE COMMUNISTS MISERABLE. THE RADICALS WOULD BEAT THE COMMUNISTS TO THE PUNCH ON EVERY ISSUE IN THE PARLIAMENT AND DRIVE THE COMMUNISTS CRAZY. HE COULD HARDLY WAIT.

8. FIRST TASK OF NEW PARLIAMENT, SAID MONTANELLI, MUST BE TO CHANGE ELECTION LAW. EXISTING SYSTEM MAKES ITALY

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UNGOVERNABLE BY ALLOWING TOO MANY SMALL PARTIES. TODAY, HE SAID, ITALY HAS UNGOVERNABLE PARLIAMENT AND GIORNALE WILL LEAD CAMPAIGN AFTER EUROPEAN ELECTIONS TO CHANGE SYSTEM. AIM WILL BE TO FORCE REPUBLICAN, LIBERALS, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO UNITE. HOW DID HE THINK MAJORITY COULD BE ASSEMBLED TO ENACT NEW LAW THAT WOULD APPEAR CONTRARY TO INTERESTS OF ALL BUT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, HOWEVER MUCH IT MIGHT SERVE NATION? MONTANELLI SHRUGGED AND CONCLUDED THAT HE AND GIORNALE WOULD MAKE THE TRY.

9. MONTANELLI'S ATTITUDE SELF CONFIDENCE AND SATISFACTION WERE THOSE OF POLITICO WHO HAS JUST WON BIG BATTLE. HE OBVIOUSLY FEELS THAT HE HAD DETERMINANT ROLE IN ELECTORAL OUTCOME AND THAT HE IS MANIPULATING DEVELOPMENTS USING HIS INFLUENCE UPON VOTERS AS LEVER. WHILE CAUTIONING THAT TODAY'S SUCCESS MAY BE FOLLOWED BY SLIDE INTO ABYSS TOMORROW, MONTANELLI IS NEVERTHELESS ELATED AT OUTCOME AND AT WHAT HE SEES AS HIS ROLE IN ACHIEVING IT.

10. WHILE MONTANELLI IS CERTAINLY SIGNIFICANT FACTION IN POLITICAL EQUATION, OTHER LOCAL FRACCTIONS DO NOT AGREE THAT HE IS AS POWERFUL AS HE APPEARS TO BELIEVE. I SHARE THEIR VIEW.FINA

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